

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A computer-based prosthodontic method for enabling a dental practitioner to define a finish line of a dental prosthesis of at least one tooth to be fitted over a tooth preparation, comprising:
(One) providing a three-dimensional (3D) digital data relating to the patient's dentition, said 3D data includes data representative of the surface topology of said preparation and its surroundings;
(Two) generating first finish line data representative of at least a portion of said finish line and superimposing an image of said finish line on an image of said dentition;
(Three) obtaining second finish line data determined on the basis of input received from a dental practitioner; and
(Four) using said second finish line data to update said first finish line data and superimposing the updated data on the dentition image.
2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the updating of the first finish line data comprises defining a portion of the finish line not defined in said first finish line data or changing a portion of said first finish line data.
3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the second finish line data is generated by virtually drawing a line at the apical limit of the preparation.
4. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the line is drawn in a continuous fashion.
5. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the line is drawn by marking dots in small intervals and then forming a line by automatically connecting the dots to one another.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the defined finish line is used as an input in constructing a crown.

7. (Original) A computer-based method for constructing a crown to be fitted on a tooth preparation in a subject, the method comprising defining a finish line on said preparation to obtain finish line data and employing said data in constructing the crown; the method being characterized in that defining the finish line comprises:

(One) providing a three-dimensional (3D) digital data relating to the patient's dentition, said 3D data includes data representative of the surface topology of said preparation and its surroundings;

(Two) generating first finish line data representative of at least a portion of said finish line and superimposing an image of said finish line on an image of said dentition;

(Three) obtaining second finish line data on a finish line determined on the basis of input received from a dental practitioner; and

(Four) using said second finish line data to update said first finish line data and superimposing the updated data on the dentition image.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein a virtual image of the preparation with a defined finish line is presented on a suitable display medium.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, comprising:

constructing a virtual crown and virtually fitting said crown on said preparation in said virtual teeth;

generating digital data representing the three dimensional structure of the virtual crown;

employing said digital data to construct a physical crown for fitting on a tooth preparation in a patient.

10. (Original) A server utility of a computer-based system, for enabling a dental practitioner to define a finish line of a dental prosthesis of at least one tooth to be fitted over a tooth preparation, said utility comprising:

(a) a processor;

- (b) a memory coupled to the processor for storing a three-dimensional (3D) digital data relating to the patient's dentition, the 3D data including data representative of the surface topology of the preparation and its surroundings;
- (c) a dedicated utility coupled to or integrated with the processor for generating a first finish line data representative of at least a portion of said finish line and superimposing an image of said finish line on an image of said dentition; and
- (d) a network interface coupled to the processor for transmitter to a dental practitioner computerized device at least a portion of the 3D digital data and the first finish line data and for receiving from the practitioner device data representative of a second finish line determined on the basis of practitioner input, wherein the second finish line data is used to update the first finish line data.

11. Cancelled

12. (Original) A computer-based program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for constructing a crown to be fitted on a tooth preparation in a subject, the method comprising defining a finish line on said preparation to obtain finish line data and employing said data in constructing the crown; the method being characterized in that

defining the finish line comprises:

- (a) providing a three-dimensional (3D) digital data relating to the patient's dentition, said 3D data includes data representative of the surface topology of said preparation and its surroundings;
- (b) generating first finish line data representative of at least a portion of said finish line and superimposing an image of said finish line on an image of said dentition;
- (c) obtaining second finish line data on a finish line determined on the basis of input received from a dental practitioner; and
- (d) using said second finish line data to update said first finish line data and superimposing the updated data on the dentition image.

13. Cancelled.